

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1912

For they can conquer who believe they can.—Dryden.

CONGRATULATIONS, ALL!

Honolulu's losing crews extend to the victorious Alamedas congratulations on the finish of a race that brought credit to every entrant.

It was a great race, and the losing crews were not outclassed. The four boats were always close together, and the Healanis made a courageous fight in the last few hundred yards that thrilled the thousands of spectators. Not a man in any boat but rowed his race to the end. And it was this exhibition of pluck and sportsman ship that after all means more than victory.

The Californians are to be complimented on their great race under conditions to which they are more or less strangers. And all of the clubs are worthy of compliment for making the seventeenth annual regatta day such a brilliant success.

Now it is up to the Honolulu clubs to send a crew to the coast at least by 1915, to go after the challenge cup that Alameda is carrying back through the Golden Gate, and to show the same pluck in going after the cup that was shown this morning in a gallant defense.

A WORK FOR THE LEGISLATURE

There are many good planks in the Republican county platform, but one good plank was knocked out when the platform went from committee to discussion by the convention.

The plank that by all means should have been retained, and for which a hard fight should have been made by the platform committee, is that which read as follows:

"We therefore favor a modernizing of our laws concerning the opening of new streets and the laying of permanent pavements and sidewalks by the adoption of the principle of local assessments upon initiative of the property owners, upon equitable terms."

The local assessment plans for municipal improvements of the kind mentioned in the modern plan, and every modern American city, so far as this paper is aware, has adopted the plan. There is not the slightest question that Honolulu should be given the power by the legislature to carry out its contemplated improvements in this manner.

There seemed to be in the county convention, when this plank was under consideration, an undercurrent of feeling that the local assessment plan is designed to put an unfair burden on the individual property-owner. The truth is just the opposite. The individual property-owner does share in the cost of the improvement, but only insofar as he is actually benefited by it, and the expense is settled by a competent grade commission or something of the kind.

The great advantage in the local assessment plan is that any portion of the community at any time may demand and receive improvements, while the payment is usually distributed over five or ten years.

Under this plan no section of the community is at the mercy of the board of supervisors in securing improvements. The initiative lies with the property-owners.

That the plank was stricken from the platform is no reason why the next legislature should not pass the necessary law authorizing the operation of the local assessment plan by the city and county of Honolulu. The plank came before the convention at a time when the delegates were unwilling to spend either effort or attention on such measures. The delegates were rushing through the platform to get to the nominating of candidates. Little consideration was given the merits of the suggestion.

The STAR-BULLETIN trusts that the Republican candidates will weigh these conditions, and, if elected, will see that the needed bill passes the legislature. It will set Honolulu years ahead in progressive internal development.

HAWAII'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE HOMESTEADER

Secretary Fisher's investigations have taken him away from Honolulu for the time being, but he has left behind him an unmistakable impression that he is finding truth in the statement that homesteading in Hawaii has not yet been given a fair trial under conditions an enterprising home-maker could accept. Exceptions to the statement should be made in a few particular cases; for instance, it is evident that the Haiku homesteaders have been offered a proposition that they can accept and are accepting with the

highest hopes for ultimate success. But Mr. Fisher's series of hearings and his first "field trip," made to Kauai, have so far brought out little evidence that lands of sufficient acreage to support independent homesteading have been opened up under conditions where the settler can live by his own efforts on his own soil.

The investigation has shown that most if not all of the homesteaders have been placed in the situation of depending on plantations or mills for their markets, and that these larger interests have nearly always been able to fix the terms on which they would take produce from the small grower.

The STAR-BULLETIN has neither patience nor respect for the wild assertions of a conspiracy among the sugar interests to block a broad homesteading system, nor has this paper any belief in the story doubtless retailed to Mr. Fisher that the independent American farmer is not wanted in this territory. We believe that the plantations as a rule have been administered with an unusual degree of justice, but naturally from the standpoint of the plantation and not of the homesteader. In other words, during the many years of bitter struggle to put sugar in Hawaii on its feet, and the few years when it has been a very profitable industry, the plantation interests have been absorbed in their problems of finance and development, and have paid little attention to the small grower unless he contributed to their output.

Now the situation in Hawaii is not at all the situation on the mainland. The homesteader here needs more than a piece of ground and a free hand. He needs generous aid to help him "man the land." It has been quite conclusively shown during the hearings before Mr. Fisher that the homesteader here ought to have money to buy animals, seed and other necessary elements of production; to clear the ground; to carry him through the period of years when he is getting no returns for his investment. And it is just this kind of aid that has been hard to get without tying up the small planter's independence in the future. The small cane-planter, the small farmer in whatever line, on government lands, has had to succeed in spite of the conditions, rather than succeeding because of them. He has had negative instead of positive encouragement, if the distinction may be made.

Secretary Fisher's visit has only hastened the changes in these conditions, for that changes are coming there can be no doubt. They have been developing from the growing consciousness of the average citizen of Hawaii that affirmative aid must be given the small farmer, coupled with a realization on the part of the sugar interests that such aid will benefit Hawaii in the long run. But Fisher's visit will stimulate these changes.

And it doesn't mean any revolution, any upheaval. It means only the working out of some plan to foster homesteading earnestly, instead of indifferently letting homesteading exist.

The situation is one to be faced with a clear understanding that Hawaii cannot stand still in the relations of its great industry to its lesser industries. The great industry must treat with the lesser industries on terms of even more than business fairness, for the physical and industrial conditions here mean that for a time at least the homesteader needs more than ordinary encouragement.

Hilo Republicans who are asking why a superintendent of public works is not appointed will have a chance to put the question up to the governor next week. The answer is doubtless that the executive himself is not sure of reappointment.

Anti-Jarrett Democrats who are trying to run Charley Rose for county clerk might as well make up their minds to conduct a political inquest if they do it.

The Bull Moose may be a strenuous animal but how about the Elephant that attacks mail coaches and chases the passengers?

It's a good guess that Jack Atkinson won't be able to collect any campaign funds from Senator Penrose.

One sure way to keep Joe Fern in office is to split the Republican vote.

Manoa insurgency seems to have been transferred to Kaimuki.

Whose colors did you wear this morning?

Well, it was a great race, anyway.

LETTERS ON TIMELY TOPICS

A QUESTION FOR FISHER.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir:—I would like to suggest that while Secretary Fisher is questioning "all concerned" here in Hawaii on the why and wherefore of things, especially territorial, that he oblige myself and 191,906 other people of Hawaii (the population is 191,909), by asking the Governor why he has not appointed a superintendent of public works for the territory.

Marston Campbell's term of office expired many months ago. He is now engaged with the Honolulu Iron Works, giving his time to that corporation, and located in an office at the iron works, for which he is paid a salary by the private concern.

At the same time he is drawing a salary in the neighborhood of \$400 per month from the territory, with the office of public works turned over to a clerk, and from which the public is getting little benefit.

Does the Governor think that there is not another "combination for efficiency" (or inefficiency) like Campbell and the public works department to be found in the territory. If so, perhaps he is right.

The people would very much like to hear the Governor's explanation.

LANTANA.
Honolulu, Sept. 21, 1912.

THE PRESS and the PEOPLE

PROGRESS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

With a month's grace it is extraordinary how valiant the Bull Moose has become. Having made certain that he could not be heard for some time, he at once insisted on telling his story the very next day. The Colonel is always courageous when there is no enemy in sight. When there was a chance to be heard the Colonel's indignation knew no bounds. He was unable to contain himself, and to relieve his feelings he poured out his burning words to his stenographer. Typewriters at Saganore Hill have been working overtime. Words, words, and still more words have flowed from Oyster Bay in a muddy stream. Explanations pile up mountain high. The oftener the Colonel opens his mouth the deeper he mires himself.

He has been compelled to shift his ground so often that his deluded devotees fear he will finally end by confessing everything. First he says no contribution was made by the Standard Oil Company, then he admits having been informed that a contribution was made and that he ordered it returned; then he professes utter ignorance of Mr. Archibald's contribution until Mr. Penrose made his speech. You are not quite sure whether the Colonel admits or denies or is merely denying his admission or admitting his denial. As further statements are promised and the typewriters are running smoothly, there is a beautiful time ahead for whoever is trying to keep up with the Colonel.—Harper's Weekly.

EAST ASKING WESTERN PRODUCTS.

The way in which the East is taking care of the tremendous fruit shipments from California, accepting hundreds of carloads daily, is evidence that the fear that, when the new orchards came into bearing, the market would be overstocked, was groundless. The East is becoming fruitarian as rapidly as the demand can be supplied. What was at one time a table delicacy is now recognized staple food, nourishing, refreshing. Not only are fresh fruits sought in the markets, but dried and evaporated fruits are freely used when the other are unobtainable. It is estimated that the present fruit production in the United States could easily be quadrupled without the product becoming a drug on the market. There should be no hesitancy in breaking new ground and setting out both deciduous and citrus fruit trees, for prices will remain profitable after orchards yet unset will have come into full bearing.—Sacramento Union.

SHOES AND PRICES.

The price of shoes is going up in this country, and the manufacturers insist that it is because they find it impossible to get the material to make them without paying from 10 to 25 per cent more than was paid a few years ago. They claim that steaks have gone up because of the scarcity of cattle, and that shoes are going up with them. We are shipping abroad nearly \$20,000,000 worth of shoes a year, and many of these go to countries where the high protective tariffs prevail. Whether foreigners can buy our shoes cheaper than they are sold to the home people is not known, but it has been demonstrated positively that the price of American beef is lower in London

than in New York. The difference of the price at wholesale is two or three cents a pound in favor of London. The retail prices for various cuts are in some instances even more striking. American sirloins, for instance, in New York, were quoted at 28 cents, while the same cuts were sold in London at 19½ cents. The claim that the foreigner pays the tax will find difficulty in explaining itself, in view of these disclosures.—Memphis News-Scimitar.

BUSINESS GOVERNMENT.

It is a subject of frequent complaint that it is disproportionately difficult to induce men such as successful business concerns employ, to assume the task of running city governments. Unfavorable comparisons are frequent between the executive managers of industries, and those of cities. Inasmuch as nine-tenths of the city executives work is administrative, the comparison is valid. Making due allowances for the fact that democracy is apt to be good natured to the point of being shiftless, and that the qualities of a good campaigner and a good manager are not common in combination; there are other reasons that make men of executive ability hesitate. The manager of a corporation works with a free hand within certain broad lines of policy. He is unhampered; in fact, every possible facility is provided him to put his ideas into effect and to enforce his orders. He is encouraged to develop his initiative and he is given authority to accord with his responsibility. He feels that he amounts to something, can take pride in his work in fact, has that dignified sense of pleasure which comes from being in real charge of large operations. The unfortunate city executive seeking efficiency (which means low taxes) has to weave in and out of a mass of restrictions and limitations, persuade others to see eye to eye with him, and by the time he has gotten anywhere he has dissipated the energy that ought to be spent in developing his ideas. . . . And at the end, he is very fortunate if he has not got to try to make his plan fit some lawyer's formal and legislative yardsticks. Very naturally, men of executive ability dread to undertake the task, realizing too well that the fruit of their talent will hardly have a chance to show itself through the intricacies in which they must work. Before we can hope for a permanent elevation of our standard of city executives, we will have to pass an enabling act for them. We will have to give an efficient man a chance to use his efficiency in our service.—New York News.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

DANIEL LOGAN—Having had the experience of being run over by a steam roller, I would not mind taking a fly in Dol's aeroplane.

CHARLES HUSTACE, Jr.—I stayed out of the convention purposely, with a view to running for mayor if the party nomination seemed to give a chance. I think the nomination of Col. Parker does give an opening, so my hat is in the ring.

PERSONALITIES

SAM PARKER, JR., came in from Hawaii to take in the Regatta Day stunts.

R. R. ELGIN of the Hawaii Railway is a visitor to Honolulu today. He arrived in the Mauna Kea.

L. L. McCANDLESS is back from a political tour of Maui and the island of Hawaii. He returned in the steamer Mauna Kea this morning.

MRS. CARL H. NIEPER and child are leaving for the Sierra for the Coast, where Mrs. Nieper's mother is seriously ill.

REV. F. S. SCUDDER was among the returning passengers in the inter-island steamer Mauna Kea from Milo and way ports this morning.

CONKLING EXPECTS LOWER TAX RATE

Territorial Treasurer David Lloyd Conkling is inclined to think that the tax rate for 1912-13 will be considerably lower than the present rate, which averages about \$1.15, due to the large increase in property assessments. He does not believe the increase in the school population will have any material effect, as the new assessment will cover the increase in expenditures necessitated by the school increase. A separate tax rate is given to each island.

Victor Allen, last of the Virginia clansmen to be tried, was acquitted of the charge of having participated in the Carroll county courthouse murders at Hillsville last March.

With five American warships patrolling the Coast, and marines occupying strategic points on land, the situation in Nicaragua is said to be excellent.

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